

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1, 6 and 17 are amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicant's invention.

The Examiner objected to Claim 6 depending from itself. As amended, Claim 6 now depends from Claim 1. The Examiner's objection is thus overcome.

The Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in Claim 7, but objected to its dependency from a rejected claim.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 11, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,052,598 ("Rudrapatna"). With respect to Claim 1, the Examiner states:

Referring to claim 1, Rudrapatna et al disclose in Figure 1 a method for predicting mobility of a mobile node (MU) relative one or more fixed nodes (bsM, bsi₁, bsi₂) in wireless, mobile access, digital network. Refer to Column 3, lines 12-33. As shown in Figure 2, the method comprises:

Obtaining (Step S2) a plurality of samples of a first physical parameter (signal strength), the value of which is related to the mobility of the mobile node (MU). At step S2 the network computes at least two instantaneous signal strengths "between the mobile unit MU and the base station bsM and the signal strengths between the mobile station MU and the base stations in the neighboring cells including bsi₂, bsi₂ (Column 3, lines 52-57). Refer to Column 4, lines 24-27.

Statistical processing (Step S3) the plurality of samples and generating a predicted future value of the parameter (signal strength). At step S3, the MSC "projects what the signal strength between the mobile unit MU and the base stations of the current cell and the neighboring cells will be at time in the future based on the actual measurements up to the current time" (Column 4, lines 4-14).

The Examiner's rejection is traversed. As amended, Claim 1 recites:

based on said future value of said parameter, identifying one of said fixed nodes and initiating a network level hand-off procedure with one of said fixed nodes prior to terminating an existing connection between said mobile node and a fixed node.

The above-quoted limitations of Claim 1, which are described, for example, in Applicant's specification, beginning at line 18, page 18 to line 21, page 19, are neither disclosed nor suggested by Rudrapatna, which discloses primarily operations at the link layer. As discussed in pages 18 and 19 of Applicant's Specification, initiating a network level hand-off procedure allows, for example, optimal packet routing, authentication and routing procedures to be carried out prior to the time hand-off is required. These benefits are not available from the operations disclosed in Rudrapatna. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Claim 1, and therefore its dependent Claims 3, 5, 10-11, 13 and 17 are each allowable over Rudrapatna. Reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 3, 5, 10-11, 13 and 17 are therefore requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 2, 4, 6 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudrapatna in view of U.S. Patent Publication US 2001/0036834 ("Das"). Since Claims 2, 4, 6 and 19 each depend from Claim 1, these claims are allowable over Rudnapatra and Das for the reasons already stated above, as Das neither discloses nor suggests the above-quoted limitations of Claim 1. Rather than "identifying one of said fixed nodes and initiating a network level hand-off procedure with one of said fixed nodes," as recited in Applicant's Claim 1, Das teaches, at paragraphs 27-29, establishing a multi-cast group involving all neighboring subnet agents. As discussed in Das's paragraph 29, such a scheme has the significant disadvantage of requiring storage for packets intended for the mobile node at each neighboring subnet agent for the entire duration of the hand-off for each mobile unit.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's Claims 2, 4, 6 and 19 are each allowable

over Rudrapatna and Das. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims are therefore requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 8-9, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudrapatna in view of U.S. Patent 6,115,406 (“Mesecher”) and in further view of U.S. Patent Publication US 2002/0093908 (“Yeap”). As Claims 8-9, 12 and 16 each depend from Claim 1, and as neither Mesecher nor Yeap relates to the mobility management operations of a mobile unit in a wireless, mobile access, digital network, thus providing no cure for the deficiencies in Rudrapatna’s teachings, Claims 8-9, 12 and 16 are each allowable over the combined teachings of Rudrapatna, Mesecher and Yeap for the reasons already discussed with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 8-9, 12 and 16 are requested.

The Examiner rejected Claims 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudrapatna in view of U.S. Patent 6,370,133 (“Kang”). As Claims 14 and 15 each depend from Claim 1, and as Kang does not relate to the mobility management operations of a mobile unit in a wireless, mobile access, digital network, thus providing no cure in the deficiencies of Rudrapatna’s teachings, Claims 14 and 15 are each allowable over the combined teachings of Rudrapatna and Kang for the reasons already discussed with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 14-15 are requested.

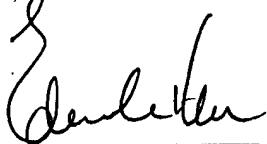
The Examiner rejected Claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rudrapatna in view of U.S. Patent 6,307,849 (“Tiedemann”). As Claim 18 depends from Claim 1, and as Tiedemann does not relate to the mobility management operations of a mobile unit in a wireless, mobile access, digital network, thus providing no cure in the deficiencies of Rudrapatna’s teachings, Claim 18 is allowable over the combined teachings of Rudrapatna

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPherson, Kwok, Chen &
Held LLP
1762 Technology Drive
Suite 226
San Jose, CA 95110
Telephone (408) 392-9520
Fax (408) 392-9262

and Tidemann for the reasons already discussed with respect to Claim 1. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of Claims 18 are requested.

Therefore, Applicants believe that all pending claims (i.e., Claims 1-19) are allowable, and respectfully request their allowance. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned Attorney for Applicants at 408-392-9250.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on October 19, 2004.

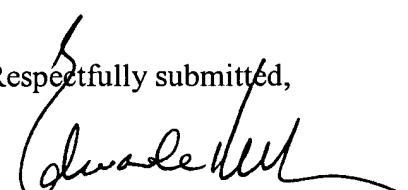


Attorney for Applicant(s)

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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Edward C. Kwok
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 33,938

LAW OFFICES OF
MacPherson, Kwok, Chen &
Held LLP
1762 Technology Drive
Suite 226
San Jose, CA 95110
Telephone (408) 392-9520
Fax (408) 392-9262